

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Delta Faucet Co. of Tennessee
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Acid Extender Reduces Hazardous Waste

The Member

Delta Faucet Co. began production at its Jackson (Tenn.) facility in August of 1995. The operation started with one shift working fewer than 50 associates. Now, less than ten years later, the facility employs over 750 associates operating three shifts and is recognized as a major employer in the Jackson-Madison County area. The Jackson facility reached milestones (internal production goals set for the facility) of one million and five million faucets produced within its first five years of production.



The Story

Delta Faucet Company produces plumbing fixtures in multiple decorative finishes. Some of these finishes include electroplating achieved through an in house process that is constituted of two main steps: pre-cleaning and plating. In 2004, the Delta Faucet environmental management team evaluated their facility aspects and impacts and set an ISO 14001 objective to further reduce waste generation and disposal from their electroplating process. As a means to reach this goal, Delta Faucet Co. needed a way to extend the life cycle of their pre-cleaning baths. This objective as developed was at a minimum three fold in overall environmental impact in that it would reduce

hazardous waste generation as well as reduce water usage and chemical usage by the facility.

The Success

The Delta Faucet Co. environmental management team investigated several technically and financially feasible options before ultimately selecting the best option in terms of meeting their objectives and ease of implementation within the current operation. In 2004, Delta Faucet Co. implemented the usage of an “acid extender”. This additive significantly increased the bath life of this particular cleaner; ultimately reducing the amount of hazardous waste generated by 81% in this particular operation of the electroplating process while also reducing the amount of water and chemicals required for the process.

The Pollution Prevented

Delta Faucet Co. reduced the amount of corrosive liquids generated by 186,000 pounds resulting in an annual savings of \$17,000, reduced the amount of water required by 22,250 gallons/year, and reduced the cost of chemicals by \$12,400 resulting in an overall annual cost savings of \$29,400. The Delta Faucet Co. environmental management team is fully committed to identifying and acting upon opportunities such as this in their continuous improvement philosophy for the facility.

April 2005